



## COMMUNITY INPUT

### Update for the Bond Election Advisory Task Force

March 7, 2012

This document is the third of regular updates to be provided to the Bond Election Advisory Task Force on community input received during the bond development process.

This report provides public comments and input received between February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 6th, 2012 from the following sources:

- Emails sent to [bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov](mailto:bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov)
- Voicemails or texts to the Bond Development Hotline (512) 539-0060
- Comments provided online on SpeakUpAustin.org
- Comments provided via Twitter using #ATXBD

### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES SURVEY RESULTS**

At the Speak Week and Open House events, citizens were asked to rank the importance of Guiding Principles for the City's bond development process. An online survey with the same information was launched on SpeakUp Austin in early February. The SpeakUpAustin online survey has closed.

The results below include combined results from the Speak Week booths, Open House surveys, and surveys completed through SpeakUpAustin.org. Based off a sample set of 358 people, this is the final rankings of the Guiding Principles:

<u>GUIDING PRINCIPLE</u>	<u>AVG. RANK</u>
• Infrastructure	2.8
• Mobility	3.0
• Sustainability	3.0
• Cost-Effectiveness	3.4
• New Initiatives	4.0
• Balanced Approach	4.2

1 = MOST IMPORTANT ----◇ 6 = LEAST IMPORTANT

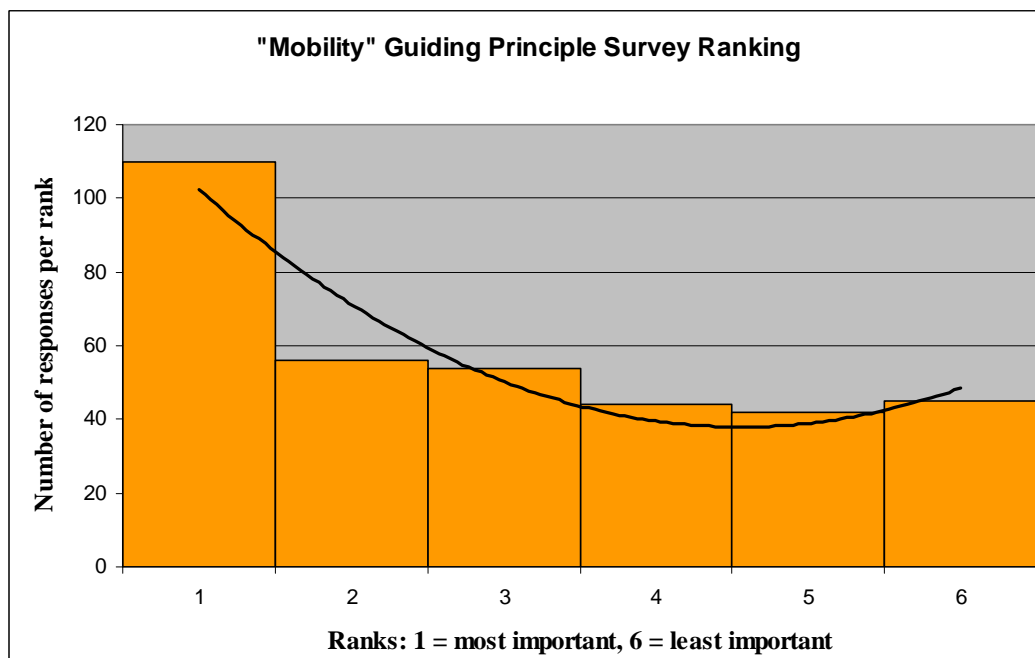
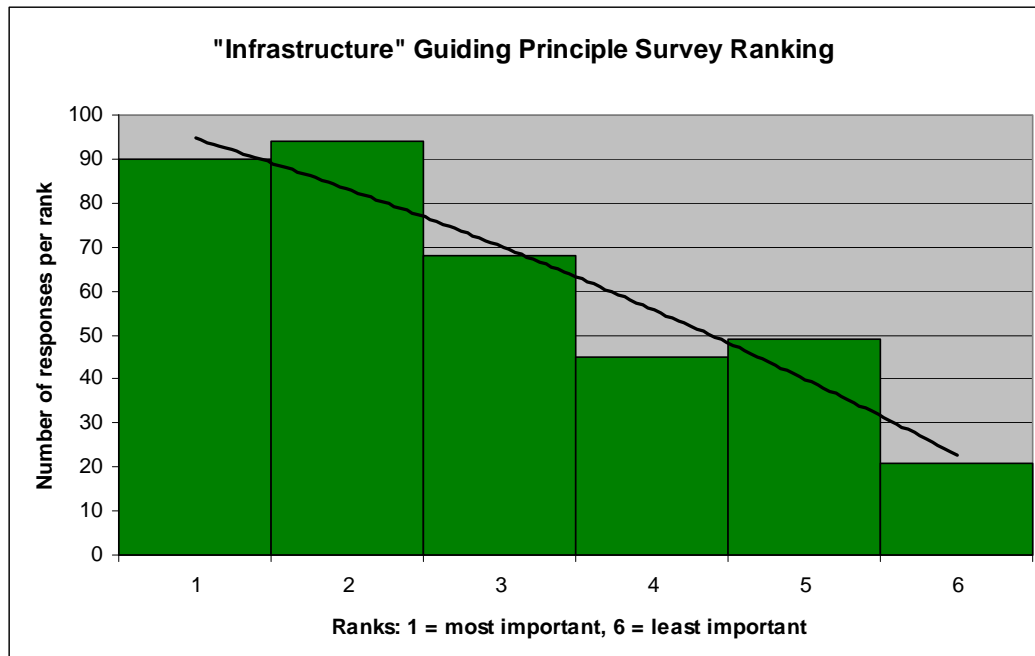


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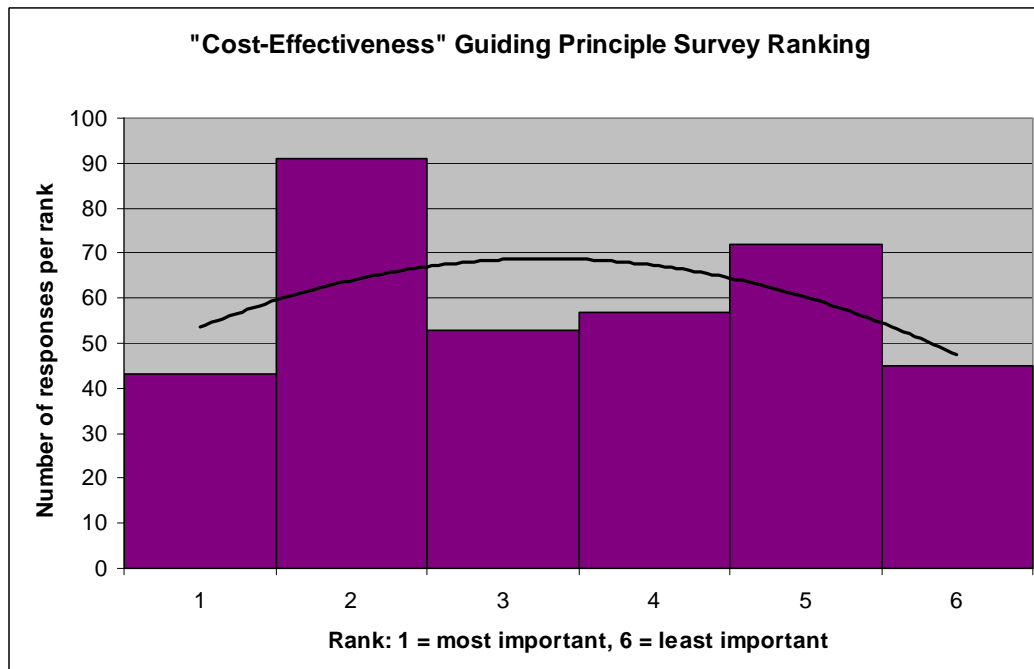
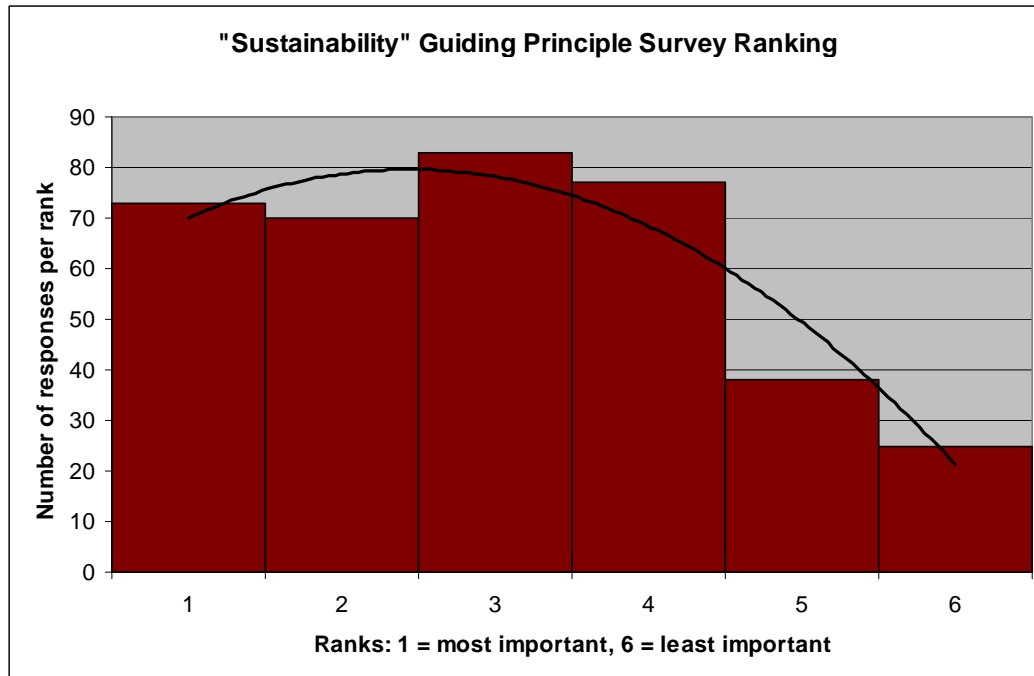
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Here are additional charts showing results from the prioritization exercise including all responses:



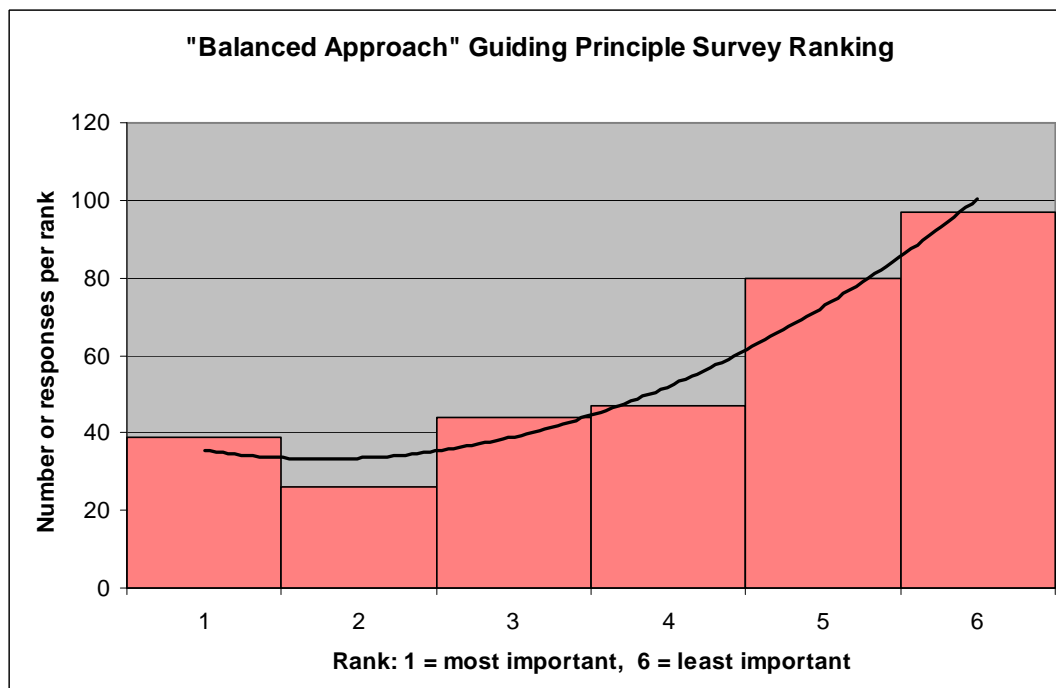
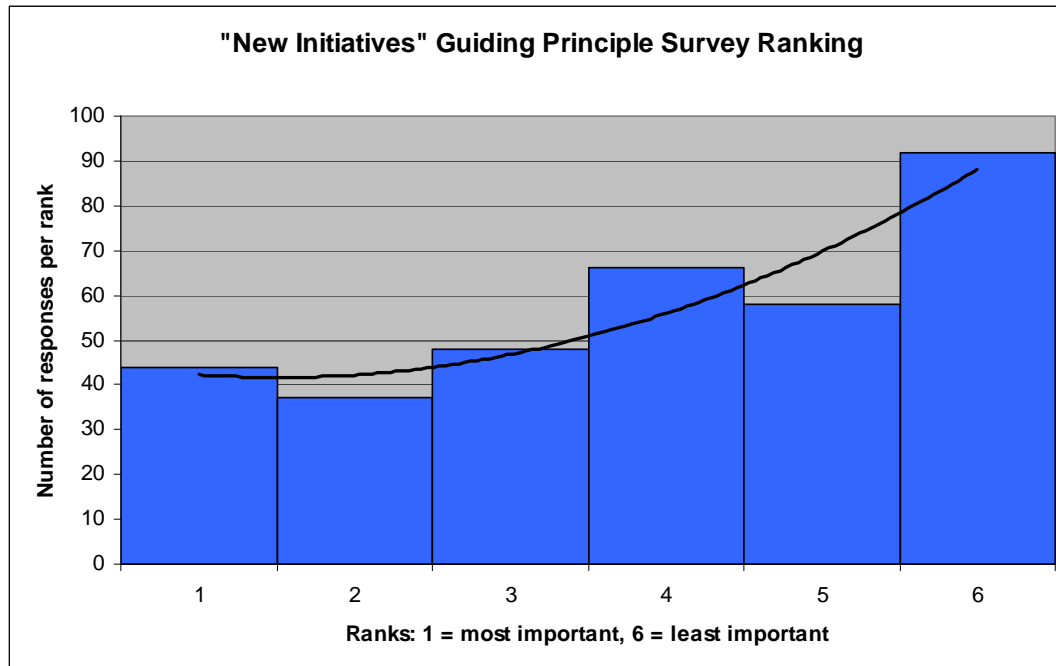


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#### OTHER COMMUNITY INPUT

Citizens had an opportunity to provide additional comments for Bond Election Advisory Task Force consideration by sending an email to [bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov](mailto:bonddevelopment@austintexas.gov), leaving a message or text to the hotline (512) 539-0060, commenting via social media, and/or commenting on Speak Up Austin.

The following comments were provided through one or more of those methods between February 29<sup>th</sup> and March 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012. (Organization of comments provided by staff.)

#### Bond Development Process comments

- I am fine with a modest tax increase to fund all the infrastructure our community needs
- don't stretch the budget too thin

#### Affordable Housing - related comments

- Affordable Housing and Transportation should be priorities
- transportation, affordable housing
- Dealing with homeless issues and affordable housing are part of dealing with basic city infrastructure.

#### City Facilities – related comments

No comments this round

#### Parks & Open Space – related comments

- New Montopolis Community and Recreation Building
- See attached letter from Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gomez

#### Transportation/Mobility - related comments

- Details of the proposed North Lamar Boulevard safety improvements, including raised medians, complete sidewalks, improved intersections, street trees, and pedestrian crosswalks. Our next step is to get funding. The North Lamar contact team, along with our neighboring neighborhoods NACA and Walnut Creek, have already started introducing our neighborhood to the city's "bond election advisory task force". This is the volunteer group of Austinites who will make a recommendation to city council about what projects to include in a November 2012 bond election. At each task force meeting so far this year, one of your neighbors made a brief presentation explaining issues such as the large number of school children who have to cross Lamar, difficulty of bus stop access for people with disabilities, traffic safety and congestion, and the opportunities of our international business district. We'd like to continue this effort, to cover the whole gamut of reasons why North Lamar needs work. We'd also like to let the task force see the fabulous variety of people who live, work, own businesses, and go to school along our street, and hear why North Lamar improvements matter to each of us.
- we wanted to make sure that you know of our whole family's support of the N Lamar



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Blvd/Burnet Rd Corridor Development Program. Thanks for all your hard work on the task force!

- transportation and affordable housing
- Transportation and Public Infrastructure should be the top priorities.
- I just wanted to express support for the N Lamar Blvd and Burnet Rd corridor improvements that you are considering for the 2012 bond package. The projects would finish sidewalks, add bicycle lanes, and overhaul major intersections so that they are safer and more accessible. They would complement the bus rapid transit stations being planned for both corridors. These corridor improvements have widespread support in North Austin. At a recent meeting of Sustainable Neighborhoods, a non-profit organized by members of North Central Austin neighborhood associations to make our commercial streets safer, more accessible, and greener, residents from eight North Austin neighborhoods voted 25-1 to support seeking funding for these projects. We are putting sweat equity into our corridors. Sustainable Neighborhoods planted 32 sidewalk trees on Burnet and N Lamar over the last year and a half, and local volunteers kept them watered and alive throughout the drought. We were planning to plant another 50 trees on Burnet, but the corridor improvements actually will complicate what we had originally planned in the short-term. Instead, we are innovating - collaborating with CapMetro on a trial of a new device called a "waterboxx" to self-irrigate seedlings for small shade trees at bus stops. We will deploy 20 waterboxxes next month at eight stops on Burnet and Anderson. If you were at the 2/21 committee meeting last week, you may have noticed a waterboxx we brought for show-and-tell - the tire-sized green and tan bucket which is placed over the seedling to buffer it, and uses heat convection to condense water. This link shows the bus stops and tree locations we are discussing with CapMetro.  
<http://docs.google.com/viewer?a=v&pid=sites&srcid=c25hdXN0aW4ub3JnfHNuYXVzdGluLWV4dGVybmFsLXNpdGV8Z3g6MWI2NDNmMzlkZGY2YTZmOQ> We're really excited at the thought of getting safer and more accessible commercial streets. It will benefit area residents and local businesses alike while reducing area traffic. Please consider these projects for funding.
- Hello. I got up this morning to several emails from friends and neighbors asking me about another fatality on North Lamar.  
<http://www.kxan.com/dpp/news/local/austin/bicyclist-killed-in-collision>  
[http://weareaustin.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid\\_658.shtml?wap=0](http://weareaustin.com/news/top-stories/stories/vid_658.shtml?wap=0). As the president of the North Austin Coalition of Neighborhoods, this has become part of my life. Fielding questions and trying to allay the worries of my friends and neighbors when we have yet another person killed on North Lamar. I sent an email a few days ago laying out the facts. I was going to send another email this weekend about why the sidewalks being proposed by CAMPO are not enough. Well, instead, I am just going to beg - please read the study, please look at the links I sent you, and please, help us stop these deaths.
- Why are you not putting the road improvements in the next bond package? It seems to me like this should be a top priority. Please reconsider and include the road improvements for north Austin.
- Promote options to driving alone.
- Great Street for 4th St. west of Congress Ave.



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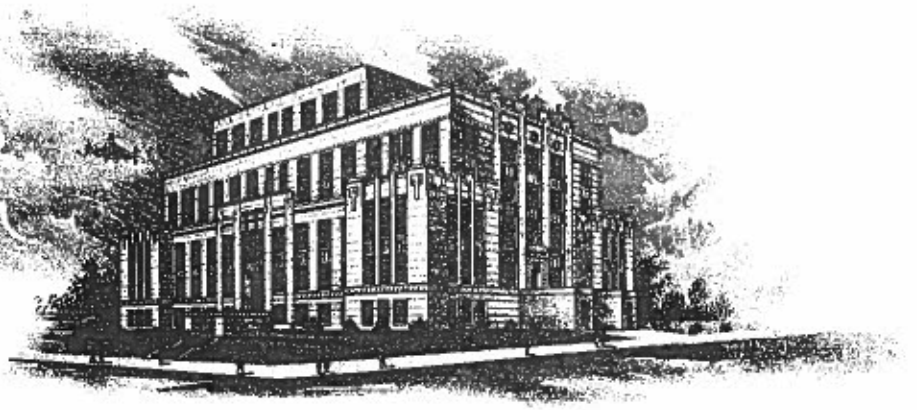
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- More Bicycling, Walking, Transit improvements. Don't care about more motor vehicle capacity.
- All multi-modal transportation options need to be considered.
- sustainable, active transportation options are preferred
- There is a desperate need for pedestrian-, bicycle-, and family-friendly mobility Austin's streets.
- What is meant by the terms used above? What is "new mobility capacity"? If you mean more lanes on I-35, then no, I don't support it. If you mean more sidewalks or bus or rail, then yes, I support it.
- I feel that the future of Austin is highly dependent on the ability of the City to engage in measures that support new transportation services.
- See attached letter from Travis County Commissioner Margaret Gomez

#### Other comments

- Promote water and energy conservation more aggressively before building water treatment or power generation plants
- use [www.civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com) in lieu of printing plans for projects out for bid. Thousands of \$'s a year are wasted on printing costs. These plans initially purchased by interested parties then when they are documents are returned the purchaser is refunded their money. The City therefore eats the costs of the plans.
- Healthy Community in the ImagineAustin plan must receive a priority--getting fresh fruit and veggies to all areas of the city at an affordable cost, providing bike/pedestrian safe activities for active living and continue the emphasis on a tobacco-free Austin is critical.



**MARGARET J. GÓMEZ**  
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

**314 W. 11TH ST., ROOM 525**  
**AUSTIN, TEXAS 78767**  
**P.O. Box 1748**  
**854-9444**

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Lee Leffingwell  
Mayor  
City of Austin  
P.O. Box 1088  
Austin, Texas 78767

RE: City 2012 Bond Election  
City-Travis County Partnership Projects  
Onion Creek Greenway Capital Improvements

Dear Mayor Leffingwell and City Council Members:

A year ago I sent you a copy of the Concept Plan for the Onion Creek Greenway which laid out our collective vision for the development of this corridor. I stressed that the implementation of the vision would take sustained actions from the County and the City over the next decade.

During this past year Travis County has continued its acquisition of land for open spaces along the corridor and is near completion of its detailed engineering design of Phase I construction between FM 973 and the Colorado River. Together our staffs are working on an Interlocal Agreement for trail access through the City's Onion Creek Preserve. The County's construction of Phase I is anticipated to begin in this year. Furthermore, in November, 2011 the voters of Travis County overwhelmingly approved additional county park bond to complete land acquisition and construction along additional upstream segments of Onion Creek within the unincorporated area.

It is my understanding that in July the City's consultant, Halff Associates, completed an Onion Creek Trail Feasibility Study and that city staff has recently included a request for bond funding for a section of the Onion Creek trail in the City-County Partnership Program for the upcoming City 2012 Bond election. The City is now seeking public comment on its proposed list of candidate projects. As Travis County Commissioner for

the area of southeast Travis County that includes Onion Creek, I urge you to include a minimum of \$2 Million for trail construction within the City-owned airport property (Segment #5) in the package of projects presented to the voters.

We are making good progress. Let's keep the momentum.

Sincerely,



Margaret Gomez  
County Commissioner, Precinct 4

Cc    Mayor Pro Tem Sheryl Cole  
      Council Member Chris Riley  
      Council Member Mike Martinez  
      Council Member Kathie Tovo  
      Council Member Laura Morrison  
      Council Member Bill Spelman  
      Marc Ott, City Manager  
      Robert Goode Assistant City Manager  
      Sue Edwards, Assistant City Manager  
      Frank Fernandez, Chair, City Bond Election Advisory Task Force  
      Mike Trimble, City Capital Planning Officer  
      Sara Hensley, Director, City Parks  
      Robert Spillar, Director, City Transportation  
      Howard Lazarus, Director, City Public Works  
      Gordon Derr, Assistant Director, City Transportation  
      Steven Manilla, TNR,  
      Charles Bergh, TNR  
      Wendy Scaperotta, TNR